(b) At present, 70 employees are involved in various litigation/court cases, police cases etc.

(c) 63 employees are involved in court I cases as petioners/ applicant/complainant plaintiff against ITPO. 5 employees are involved in police cases. 2 employees have ; filed writ Petitions against ITPO challen-

Sing disciplinary proceedings.

(d) The following steps(have been taken to reduce litigation in ITPO:—

(i) Welfare & Grievances Officer has been appointed.

(ii) Opportunity is given for con stant interaction between Management and the Employees' Union and Officers' Association.

(iii) The Joint Consultative Machinery between Management and staff or ITPO also looks into various grievances from time to time.

Extreme focus groups

5088. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 34 extreme focus groups;

(b) the' details of the extreme focus groups.

(c) whether- it is a 'fact that various recommendations have been made by these extreme focus groups; and

(d) whether these recommendations have" been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, A list of thirty-four 'Extreme Focus Products/Product Groups were identified by the Government aimed at increasing the export of these products by 30 per cent in value or volume every year. These are: Acquaculture, Agro Chemicals, Auto Components, Bicycles and Parts, Cement, Complete Vehicles, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Dyes and Intermediates, Electric Power Generation & distribution equipment, Floriculture, Footwear, Fresh fruits, Gold Jewellery, Granites, Handtools I.C, Easing & Parts, Industrial Castings and Forcings Tomato ,Paste Products, Tropical Fruit Juices, Pulp & Concentrates, Preserved Mushrooms (Processed Foods), Readymade Garments, Rice, Software packages, system software, Network, CAD/CAN (Software), Spices, Sugar, Molasses, Alcohol including Ethyl Alcoho], Sugar Machinery. Synthetic & Man Made Textiles, Tyres;

(c) and (d) A number of recommendations have ..been made by a team set up to go into the reports given by 26 Groups which led to identify 34/Extreme Focus Products/Products Groups'. These are common to most 'Extreme Focus Product Groups. These rceommendations relate to:—

(i) Policy issues,

iii) Procedural simplifications;

(iii) Infrastructural improvements and

(iv) Institutional arrangements.

These is another set of recommendations which is specific to an industry or a product group. These relate to constraints and problems experienced by exporters of particular products.

Pursuant to the recommendations, several measures have been taken by the Government comprising trade policy, fiscal, credit,' infrastructure institutional and administrative arrangements. Speci fic mention may be made of unified mar ket determined exchange rate system reduction in import duty on specified capital goods from 40 per cent to 25 pei cent, reduction in import duty on raw materials, to increase availability of expor credit at lower rates of interest, opening of Inland container depot and container freight stations. Institutional arrange ments like setting up six Task Force: also need mention which covered agricul tural and agro products, electronics and information technology, textile garment; and cemicals, pharmaceuticals and grani tes.. Administrative measures comprisf and setting up tf ERC (Exporters Griev ance Redressal Cell), J